

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01

OIC-02 /092 W

-----091111Z 010720 /14

R 090950Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4276

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 307

USUN NEW YORK 506

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, AORG, LI

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH LIBERIAN LABOR MINISTER PEAL

REF: A) STATE 061981, B) STATE 059159, C) MONROVIA 8504 (76)

1. SUMMARY: LIBERIAN LABOR MINISTER PEAL HAS INDICATED THAT HE

IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE JUNE INTERNATIONAL

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LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC). THE AFRICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION  
WILL BE CHOSEN AT THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE TO BEGIN  
IN TRIPOLI ON APRIL 25. PEAL IS UNAWARE OF ANY MOVES BEING MADE BY  
MODERATES TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS PRIOR TO THE TRIPOLI  
CONFERENCE. IN DISCUSSING LAST FEBRUARY'S ILO GOVERNING BODY  
MEETING IN GENEVA, PEAL NOTED THAT LIBERIA DID NOT SPEAK IN ITS  
OWN BEHALF AGAINST CLOSING THE BOOK ON THE 1974 RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING ISRAEL, BUT RATHER AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE  
CONSENSUS OF THE AFRICAN GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AN APRIL 7 MEETING WITH THE DCM, MINISTER OF LABOR  
J. JENKINS PEAL MENTIONED THAT HE IS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT  
OF THE JUNE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC). PEAL HAS  
RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO PURSUE HIS  
CANDIDACY FOR THE ILC PRESIDENCY AND IS NOW "TESTING THE WATERS"  
FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. NOTING THAT PREVIOUS ILC PRESIDENTS  
HAVE COME FROM ETHIOPIA AND ZAIRE AND THAT A NORTH AFRICAN WAS  
PRESIDENT OF LAST JUNE'S WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE, PEAL  
STRESSED THAT IT WAS WEST AFRICA'S TURN FOR THE POSITION. HE  
INDICATED THAT IT IS THE "OAU APPRAISAL", AS WELL, THAT THE NEXT  
ILC PRESIDENT SHOULD COME FROM ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA.  
NEVERTHELESS, PEAL SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT HIS GREATEST  
OPPOSITION WAS LIKELY TO COME FROM IVORY COAST MINISTER OF LABOR  
ALBERT VANIE-BI-TRA. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF  
RIVALRY FROM GUINEA'S ABDOULAYE TELL. ACCORDING TO PEAL,  
THE DECISION ON WHO WILL BE THE AFRICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE POST WILL  
BE MADE AT THE APRIL 25 AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN  
TRIPOLI. PEAL PLANS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE ONLY IF HE HAS FIRM  
INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY. OTHERWISE, DEPUTY  
MINISTER OF LABOR JOSEPH DENNIS WILL ATTEND. ASSISTANT MINISTER  
OF LABOR ETHELBERG COOPER WILL ATTEND IN EITHER CASE. PEAL  
APPEARED TO BE WAITING FOR WORD FROM COOPER, CURRENTLY IN GENEVA,  
ON WHETHER SUFFICIENT SUPPORT COULD BE MOBILIZED FOR A SUCCESSFUL  
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ILC PRESIDENCY. PEAL IS UNAWARE OF ANY MOVES  
BY MODERATES TO COORDINATE A COMMON POSITION DESIGNED TO CONVINCE  
THE U.S. TO STAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO)  
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(REF A). HE ASSUMED THAT COOPER WOULD HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON SUCH  
PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE.

3. IN COMMENTING ON THE FEBRUARY ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING,  
PEAL NOTED THAT THE SESSION HAD GONE WELL FOR THE AMERICANS.  
HE EXPLAINED THAT COOPER'S OPPOSITION TO THE U.S.-BACKED MOVE TO  
CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL WITHOUT  
DUE PROCESS (REFTEL B) WAS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
AND NOT ON LIBERIA'S OWN BEHALF. ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT THE AFRICAN  
GROUP MEETING IN CAUCUS WAS NOT UNANIMOUS ON EITHER ISSUE, PEAL  
SAID THAT A MAJORITY OF AFRICAN NATIONS OPPOSED U.S. EFFORTS TO  
CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE ISRAEL RESOLUTION AS WELL AS THE PROPOSAL  
TO AMEND THE STANDING ORDERS. LIBERIA THUS FELT COMPELLED TO  
SPEAK AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGION AT THE GOVERNING BODY  
MEETING. HE SKIRTED THE QUESTION OF WHERE LIBERIA ACTUALLY STOOD  
ON THE QUESTIONS, BUT NOTED, WITH A WINK, THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS BY  
THE RESULTS OF THE SECRET BALLOT THAT SEVERAL AFRICAN NATIONS  
HAD NOT VOTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAUCUS CONSENSUS.

4. PEAL REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD REMAIN IN THE ILO AND NOTED THAT IF HE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ILC PRESIDENCY, HE HAD NOT DESIRE TO PRESIDE OVER THE DEMISE OF THE ILO. BY INFERENCE HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT, IF PURSUED, HE WOULD HOPE HIS CANDIDACY WOULD RECEIVE U.S. SUPPORT.  
CARTER

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## Message Attributes

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